Town Clerk's Report to Full Council – 2 November 2026

1. Operational Update

Automated Hall Booking

The Council has now fully migrated to its new hall booking system, which is working well. The door access PIN system will go live on 2nd November. This will provide a more convenient service for hirers, allowing direct access to facilities without the need for key collection, whilst reducing administrative tasks and improving operational efficiency.

Churchill Crescent Play Area – Refurbishment Update

The refurbishment project is now in its final stages, with only a small number of snagging items remaining to be addressed. Once these have been completed, the play area will be ready to open to the public, which is expected to be very soon. This significant investment will provide an improved and modern play facility for local children and families to enjoy.

2. Crime & Disorder

Anti Social Behaviour

Several incidents of anti-social behaviour have been reported during the period. All incidents were reported to the police, and the Council continues to work proactively with the relevant authorities to help ensure that public spaces remain safe and welcoming for residents.

3. Finance

Grant Applications

The Council has submitted four grant applications to support a range of Council projects and initiatives. The outcome of the applications is awaited and, if successful, further details will be reported to Members in due course.

Budget Timetable

The budget timetable for 2027/28 budget is as follows:

- First meeting with accountant 11th September 2026
- Review of staff costs Personnel Committee – 21st September
- Review of draft capital projects by Environment Committee – 28th September
- Review of draft capital projects by Finance & Policy Committee – 19th October
- Second meeting with Accountant w/c 19th Oct
- 1st draft of budget to be prepared by 26th October
- Review by Finance & Policy Committee – 16th November
- Review by Environment Committee – 30th November
- Final draft review by Finance & Policy – 11th January
- Full Council approval – 18th January

4. Events Attended

I have attended the following events:

Hampshire Association of Local Councils Presentation Event - 23rd September

I was delighted to attend the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Village of the Year Awards Presentation, where Yateley was recognised as a joint winner of the **Village of the Year Award** and was also awarded **Best Youth Initiative**.

These awards are a testament to the dedication, hard work and community spirit demonstrated every day by Yateley's residents, volunteers, local organisations, schools, businesses, sports clubs and community groups. The judges were particularly impressed by the breadth of activities, facilities and initiatives taking place across the town, as well as the strong partnerships that exist between organisations working for the benefit of the community.

I would like to thank Yateley Town Council staff, Yateley Lions, Yateley & Hawley Royal British Legion, The Yateley Society, Yelabus and Vision for Youth for their support and participation in the presentation process. Their contributions helped showcase the collaborative approach and community pride that make Yateley such a vibrant and welcoming place to live.

These awards are a significant achievement for the town and recognition of the collective efforts of everyone who contributes to making Yateley a successful and thriving community.

South East in Bloom Award Presentation Event – 25th September 2026

I was pleased to attend the South East in Bloom Awards Presentation at RHS Wisley, where Yateley received further recognition for the quality of its green spaces and commitment to maintaining an attractive local environment.

Yateley was awarded:

- **Gold** for **Heathlands Cemetery**
  and
- **Silver** for **Yateley, Frogmore and Darby Green**,

Building on the success achieved in the competition the previous year.

These awards reflect the hard work and dedication of the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contractor, PGSD, Town Council staff, councillors, community groups and volunteers, all of whom play an important role in enhancing and maintaining our public spaces.

The recognition received through South East in Bloom, demonstrates the positive impact of collaborative working and community pride across the town.

I would like to thank everyone involved in helping to achieve these awards and for their continued contribution to making Yateley a place of which we can all be proud.

Community Litter Picks – 26 October and 29 October 2026

I was pleased to attend the Community Litter Picks held on 26 and 29 October, both of which were well attended by residents, including children and families. These events are a positive example of community involvement and help support the Council's efforts to maintain a clean and attractive environment throughout the town.

5. Upcoming Events

Yateley Lions Fireworks – 7th November
Remembrance Day

- St Barnabas Service – Sunday 8th November 10am
- St Swithun's Service and Parade – Sunday 8th November from 2pm onwards

(Please could Members hand out the service sheets at the War Memorial as usual)

Details: https://yateley-tc.gov.uk/news-events/remembrance-sunday/
Armistice Day – Wednesday 11th November, 11 am at the War Memorial
Christmas Lights Switch on Darby Green – 27th November
Christmas Light switch on and Christmas Market – Church End Green – 28th November
Mayor's Christmas Pub Carolling – TBC

6. Climate Change

- The Town Council's existing solar panels have continued to generate renewable energy, helping to reduce electricity consumption across Council buildings. I am pleased to report that the new infra-red heating system has now been installed at Monteagle Community Centre, with the installation of solar panels due to take place shortly. The project will improve the building's energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and help lower ongoing energy costs. The scheme is part-funded through a £4,500 Climate Grant awarded by Hart District Council.
- Windows at The Tythings have been upgraded, with replacement of the Council Office windows due to be completed within the next weeks, improving insulation and reducing heat loss.
- Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) have now been obtained for all council-owned buildings. The Tythings, Monteagle Community Centre and Darby Green have all achieved a B rating, representing a significant improvement on the 2022 assessments.
- Yateley Town Council has taken the decision to work in partnership with local schools to support biodiversity by providing bird and bat boxes, alongside installing additional boxes on Town Council-owned open space land across the parish.
- Work continues on delivery of the Biodiversity Action Plan. Work continues on the delivery of the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan. Habitat improvement works are currently taking place at both Darby Green Pond and Goose Green Pond, with the aim of enhancing biodiversity and improving conditions for wildlife. The Council continues to work with local wildlife groups and volunteers to identify further opportunities to support native species and strengthen ecological habitats across the parish. We will also be having Toad Crossing points at Darby Green Pond as part of this.
- The Community Climate Forum took place on 26th October. The next Forum will take place on January 25th 2027.

Julie Routley, Town Clerk
28 October 2026